

Amendments to the Claims

Claim 1 (original). A method of producing a structured layer, which comprises the following steps:

providing a prestructured substrate;

applying to the prestructured substrate a precious metal and a donor material containing an additive which is not a precious metal in two or more layers;

subjecting the layers to heat treatment at a temperature of between approximately 400°C and approximately 800°C, such that the additive diffuses into the precious metal and an alloy layer is produced; and

polishing the alloy layer by chemical and mechanical means.

Claim 2 (original). The method according to claim 1, wherein the donor material essentially comprises only the additive.

Claim 3 (original). The method according to claim 1, which comprises applying the donor material to the substrate before the precious metal.

Claim 4 (original). The method according to claim 3, which comprises alternately applying several layers of the donor

material and at least one layer of the precious metal,  
starting with a layer of the donor material.

Claim 5 (original). The method according to claim 1, wherein  
the precious metal is applied to the substrate before the  
donor material.

Claim 6 (original). The method according to claim 1, wherein  
several layers of the precious metal and at least one layer of  
the donor material are applied alternately, starting with a  
layer of the precious metal.

Claim 7 (original). The method according to claim 1, wherein  
the thickness of the donor material is selected such that  
during heat treatment the donor material essentially diffuses  
completely into the precious metal.

Claim 8-10 (withdrawn).

Claim 11 (original). The method according to claim 1, wherein  
the precious metal is an element from Group 8b of the Periodic  
Table of the Elements and/or is Au.

Claim 12 (currently amended). The method according to claim  
11, wherein the precious metal is from Group 8b of the  
Periodic Table of the Elements ~~Pt~~ and/or is Ir.

Claim 13 (original). The method according to claim 1, wherein the additive is Ti, TiO<sub>x</sub>, Ta, W, Bi, Ru and/or Pd.

Claim 14 (withdrawn).

Claim 15 (original). The method according to claim 1, wherein the donor material is Ti, TiO<sub>x</sub>, TiN, Ta, TaN, W, WN, Bi, BiO<sub>x</sub>, IrO<sub>x</sub>, IrHfO<sub>x</sub>, RuO<sub>x</sub> and/or PdO<sub>x</sub>.

Claim 16 (withdrawn).

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Claim 17 (currently amended). The method according to claim 1, wherein the alloy layer produced contains between approximately 5 and approximately 30 atom % of the donor material.

Claim 18 (withdrawn).

Claim 19 (original). The method according to claim 1, wherein a slurry containing water, abrasive particles and at least one oxidant is used for the chemical mechanical polishing.

Claim 20 (currently amended). The method according to claim 19, wherein Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> particles or SiO<sub>2</sub> particles are used as the abrasive particles.

Claim 21 (original). The method according to claim 19,  
wherein the abrasive particles have a size of approximately 50  
to 300 nm.

Claim 22 (currently amended). The method according to claim  
19, wherein  $H_2O_2$  is used as the at least one oxidant.

Claim 23 (original). The method according to claim 19,  
wherein the slurry has at least one stabilizer.

Claim 24 (original). The method according to claim 23,  
wherein the stabilizer is polyacrylic acid.

Claim 25-35 (withdrawn).

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